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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

The specification is amended to remove references to claim numbers in the specification.

Claims 1 and 5 are amended to specifically recite that the second selected icon remains displayed in the second field of the display. This limitation had been included in dependent claims 3 and 7. Claims 3 and 7 are amended to be consistent with amended claims 1 and 5. The claims are also amended to provide a better consistency among the terms used. No new matter is added.

The Office action cites claims 1 and 5 as independent claims, at paragraph 2. The applicants note that claim 17 is also an independent claim. The Office action recites "Claims 1-10 are rejected ..." at paragraph 4, but the body of the paragraph refers also to claims 11-20. The applicants assume that the reference to "claims 1-10" is intended to read "claims 1-20".

The Office action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Steele et al. (USP 5,742,779, hereinafter Steele), IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin "Dynamic Icon Presentation", Vol. 35, No. 48 (September 1992), pp. 227-232 (hereinafter IBM TDB), and Beaudet et al. (USP 5,689,668, hereinafter Beaudet). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In independent claims 1 and 5, upon which claims 2-4 and 6-16 depend, the applicants teach and claim a sequential display of each selectable icon of a first level of a hierarchy in a first field of a display. When a first icon is selected, the first field continues to display the selected icon while a second sequential display of each selectable icon of a second level of a hierarchy is displayed in a second field of the display. When the second icon is selected, the second field continues to display the selected icon. In dependent claims 11-12, the applicants extend this sequential display to include successive levels of the hierarchy, each level of the hierarchy being displayed at successive fields of the display. Of particular note, each field of

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the display is used to provide for selection of an icon, and the persistent display of each selected icon. In this manner, a "context shift" does not occur in the display of the icons that have lead to the current selection state. The advantages of using a fixed field for sequentially displaying and selecting a single icon at each level of the hierarchy are presented at page 1, line 28 through page 3, line 21.

The Office action cites Steele for teaching a hierarchical display of icons, IBM TBD for teaching a sequential display of icons, and Beaudet for teaching the display of multiple hierarchy levels simultaneously. The applicants respectfully disagree that a combination of Steele, IBM TBD, and Beaudet will lead to the applicants' claimed invention.

The applicants respectfully note that the combination of Steele, IBM TBD, and Beaudet will not provide a persistent display of two selected icons in the same field in which they were selected, as specifically claimed by the applicants.

IBM TBD does not address the selection of multiple icons.

Steele teaches a "gallery" where selectable icons are presented. When an icon is selected, it is moved to another field (Steele's "elevator"), and new icons are presented in the gallery. Steele does not teach or suggest keeping the selected icon in the same field from which it was selected; Steele does not teach or suggest presenting the subsequent icons in a different field for subsequent selection; Steele does not teach or suggest displaying the subsequently selected icon in the same field from which it was selected. The applicants further maintain that, by teaching the creation of an elevator field in which each selected icon is placed, Steele teaches away from the applicants' claimed invention of keeping each selected icon in the same field from which it was selected.

Beaudet teaches the simultaneous display of selection buttons 20 for activation of a selection from each level of a hierarchy, a selection window 30 for the selection among icons for the selected hierarchy level, and a display area 50 for listing the selected icon at each hierarchy level. Of particular note, when a user selects an entry from the selection window 30, it is persistently displayed in field 50. When the user selects a different level of the hierarchy, from field 20, the content of the selection field 30 is changed.

The applicants further maintain that, with regard to the selection buttons 20, Beaudet explicitly teaches against a combination with IBM TBD and Steele, and specifically teaches

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against the applicants' invention. Steele teaches a selection window and a separate window that shows the prior selections; Steele specifically teaches that the dynamic creation of the elevator panel entries facilitates navigation and orientation (Steele, column 13, lines 4-67). IBM TBD teaches the sequential presentation of each of a series of icons, to avoid clutter and to save display space.

Beaudet specifically teaches "the present invention offers a simple yet elegant approach ... by providing a single selection screen which combines a finite number of pushbuttons with text fields and a single, dynamically changing listbox." The continuous display of a finite number of pushbuttons teaches against IBM TBD's sequential display of options to conserve display space and to avoid clutter. This display of all of the selectable hierarchy levels as fixed pushbuttons, regardless of the current path through the hierarchy, also teaches against Steele's dynamic creation of an elevator panel in response to the selection to facilitate orientation and navigation. In like manner, Beaudet's "single, dynamically changing listbox" that alternatively displays the selectable icons of any selected hierarchy specifically teaches against the applicants' claimed use of separate display areas for each selectable set of icons.

Because neither Steele, nor IBM TBD, nor Beaudet, individually or collectively, teach or suggest the use of discrete fields for selecting and displaying selectable and selected icons, as specifically claimed by the applicants, and because both Steele and Beaudet teach against the applicants' claimed invention, and because Beaudet teaches against both Steele and IBM TBD, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Steele, IBM TBD, and Beaudet.

The Office action asserts that the scope of claims 17-20 correspond to the scope of claims 1-4. The applicants respectfully note, however, that claims 1-4 address a selection scheme, whereas selection is not included as an element of independent claim 17.

Independent claim 17, upon which claims 18-20 depend, specifically claims the sequential display of each icon of a first set of icons in a first field, and, as each first icon is displayed, sequentially displaying each icon of a second set of icons. The advantages of such an autonomous "broadcast" display of a hierarchy of items are noted at page 7, line 5 through

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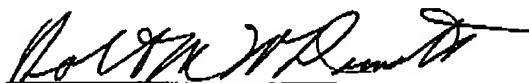
page 8 line 2 of the applicants' specification. As in claims 1 and 5, the icons of each hierarchy level are displayed in different fields on the display, so that the hierarchy structure is apparent as the sequential display progresses.

Steele teaches the creation of a "storybook" of selected icons, and the subsequent playback of these selected icons. Steele's storybook format, however, requires that all of the selected icons are presented in the display area that is used for playback. The presentation of each icon in a different field dependent upon which set of icons the icon is drawn from, as claimed by the applicants, is inconsistent with the presentation of sequential icons to portray a story, as taught by Steele.

Because neither Steele, nor IBM TBD, nor Beaudet, individually or collectively, teach or suggest the display of first icons in a first field of a display and displaying a set of second icons corresponding to each first icon in a second field of a display, as specifically claimed in the applicants' claim 17, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claim 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Steele, IBM TBD, and Beaudet.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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